

We've been going through 2 Peter Chapter 2.

And Peter started out this chapter in verses 1 - 3 with a warning that false teachers will be among us.

They will bring damnable heresies into the church. Many will follow their destructive behavior.

Through covetousness these teachers are making merchandise of the people. Using and abusing their congregations to support their greedy lifestyles.

We know that they are ministers of satan;  
but transforming themselves into ministers of righteousness. (2 Cor 11:14-15)  
Creating experiences that appeal to the flesh.

There are movements today like the New Apostolic Reformation and many others that are elevating the so called works of the Holy Spirit over the authority of God's word.

The preaching, which is pretty much motivational speaking, becomes centered on spiritual gifts, revelations, and healings.

This is very seducing to a young generation that has been programed to expect instant gratification of the senses.

satan is so good at taking biblical concepts and ideas and twisting in elements of paganism.  
He does everything he can to seduce people away from the truth.

An enemy can usually do the most damage when it can go undetected behind enemy lines.

That's exactly what's happening in churches today. satan has gotten in undetected, quietly wreaking havoc.

And the best way to mitigate his attacks is to take hold of sound doctrine.  
To know the truth of God's word. As mentioned in Ephesians 4: 13 – 14

***13** Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

***14** That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, **whereby they lie in wait to deceive;***

I want you to pay really close attention to the language used in verse 14.

When it says "**by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;**

This is basically telling us that the enemy that we are facing is an expert at deception and he's lying in wait for the perfect opportunity to deceive us.

You've probably heard the term Sleight of hand which is something that magicians use to skillfully manipulate objects and deceive the audience.

They prevent you from seeing how a trick is being performed by cleverly diverting your attention away from what they don't want you to see.

This same word **sleight** in the term **Sleight of Hand** is used in the same way in verse 14 when it says **sleight of men**.

We're dealing with very skillful, cunning, sly, and crafty men.

Who are being used by satan to subtly introduce false doctrines and divert our attention from corruption.

This is the reality we are facing, and if we don't take these warnings in scripture seriously. We could find ourselves tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine.

satan has had thousands of years to perfect his deceptive practices.  
He continues to blur the line between righteousness and unrighteousness.

So how do we protect ourselves?

### **Ephesians 6: 10 – 19**

So this is just a reminder of who we're up against and how we're supposed to deal with them as we navigate this life.

So 2 Peter 2: 1 – 3 laid out the truth that false teachers are a reality.

And then in verses 4 – 9 we looked at the three examples of God not sparing the ungodly.

These events were a foreshadow of God's judgment that would come upon

all the unrighteous that ever walked or will walk on the earth,

including the devil and his angels.

There was a great example in verses 6 – 8 about Lot being vexed by the filthy conversation of the wicked, and we briefly touched on how this same concept applies to us today.

Lot was being oppressed and tormented every day by the things he saw and heard in Sodom.  
He chose to subject himself and his family to that wickedness.

Likewise, we also have to make a choice everyday on what we will subject ourselves to.

It's very easy to become desensitized to the things of the world when we are not actively seeking to be set apart and live a life of holiness.

Frog Myth

### **1 Peter 2: 9 - 12**

*9 But ye are a **chosen generation**, a **royal priesthood**, an **holy nation**, a **peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath **called you out** of darkness into his marvellous light;*

*10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

*11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul**;*

*12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

Part of the problem today is that we are not holding fast to our identity in Christ.

This is God's view of us, and His expectation that we are to be a **chosen generation**, a **royal priesthood**, a **peculiar people**. We are called out of darkness into light.

We are to abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.

We have to ask ourselves, is our life reflecting this high calling of God?

Or are we trying to blend in with the world around us?

And often times, blending in with the world is not something we do intentionally,

But just like the frog that stayed in the pot that was heating up, and just like Lot who stayed in Sodom,

We too can get to a point of desensitization that requires extreme measures to get back in alignment with God's plan for our lives. **Matthew 5: 27 – 30**

### **Colossians 3: 1 - 10**

Sometimes those extreme measures come in the form of chastisements from God. Which is not a place you want to be.

That's why it's really important to be around fellow believers.

Or to have a Spouse or family and friends that will hold each other accountable to walk worthy of God, and to be that living sacrifice that is holy and acceptable unto Him.

So besides this problem of not viewing ourselves the way God views us, which is as a holy nation, and peculiar people called out of darkness.

It's also possible for us to not be viewing sin the way God views it.

It's very clear cut and dry in scripture how God looks at sin. We know how He dealt with it in the old testament... 5 When God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

And we know how He's going to deal with it in the future...

So if we have this written record of God's position on sin. Why are we not taking it seriously?

Why is it, for example, that a very large percentage of professing believers, both men and women today regularly look at pornography? When we know God's position on fornication.

Why are we entertaining ourselves by Hollywood actors who hate God, blaspheme His name, and deny Jesus Christ?

I would submit to you that it's because our view on sin has been so watered down and softened by the deceitfulness of this world and by Satan. He's turning the truth into a lie as we see in Romans chapter 1, he's constantly pounding perverted ideas into our minds through every type of media. Sin has become so normalized in our society.

If we are not actively reading God's word and continually reminding ourselves that God hates the wickedness of man, we are going to find ourselves under a stronghold of deception and sin.

Ultimately we have to make this choice every day, what are we going to look at, what are we going to listen to, who are we going to serve?

Jesus gives a very strong warning in Revelation chapter 3 when he addressed the church of Laodicea.

**Revelation 3: 14 - 22**

I do not want to be spued out of the mouth of Jesus.

I pray that this passage really motivates us to choose a side.

Don't try to straddle the line between the world and the things of God.

Let's go back to 2 Peter 2 and read a little further.

Verse 9

